

The Book of a Thousand Nights,

Richard Francis Burton



and a Night — Volume 12

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The Book of a Thousand Nights and a Night

This is a collection of stories collected over thousands of years by various authors, translators and scholars. They are an amalgam of mythology and folk tales from the Indian sub-continent, Persia, and Arabia. No original manuscript has ever been found, but several versions date the collection's genesis to somewhere between AD 800-900. The stories are wound together under the device of a long series of cliff-hangers told by Shahrazad to her husband Shahryar, to prevent him from executing her. Many tales that have become independently famous come from the Book, among them Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, and the voyages of Sinbad the Sailor. This collection comes from the twelfth of sixteen volumes translated by Richard Francis Burton; the first half of this volume consists of Burton's translations and the second half a commentary on volumes 11 & 12 of the Tales by W.A. Coulson. ()

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